

Wheeler, Wayne

From: Ron Godbout <rongo55@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 12:19 AM
To: DES-swpublic.comment
Subject: Bestway Permit, Belmont

Gentlemen:

As a resident of Northfield, I strenuously object to the proposed expansion of the Bestway transfer station in Belmont. Quadrupling the permitted tonnage of solid waste processed at this site will potentially quadruple the risk of contaminating local aquifers as well as surrounding wetlands that ultimately drain into the Winnepesaukee river, and ultimately the Merrimack river.

My chief concern is the pollution risk to the aquifer that supplies domestic water to households and businesses in the surrounding towns. There is virtually no control over what is placed in household or light commercial trash, classified as municipal solid waste (MSW). Whatever small quantities of hazardous material that could end up in refuse, such as mercury from batteries and cfl lamps; lead, etc., may easily find its way into the site's soil and groundwater.

Prior to my retirement, I worked for "Ogden Martin Systems, now Covanta Energy, which operates numerous waste-to-energy plants in several states. These plants were served by numerous transfer stations, and I've observed first-hand how MSW is handled and/or mishandled at these sites. The potential for spills or leakage that could end up in the surrounding groundwater is high.

Rather than grant the requested increase, which would bring in some 450 tons per day of solid waste from outside this area, dramatically increasing truck traffic in the area, I wholeheartedly recommend revoking Bestway's existing permit and shutting down the current operation due to its potential threat to the local aquifer and wetlands.

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